

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 L-02 /049 W

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R 141846Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8482

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 444

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, EEC

SUBJECT: STANDARDS HARMONIZATION: OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENERS
SYSTEM (OMFS)

REFS: A. STATE 51493, MARCH 10, 1975

B. EC BRUSSELS 1701, FEB. 27, 1975

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTTEL A WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS LOERKE (DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) AND DE JONGE (DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY). THEIR BASIC POSITION IS THAT THERE IS ALREADY AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARD (ISO) AND WHATEVER MARGINAL BENEFITS OMFS STANDARDS MIGHT OFFER DO NOT MERIT THE ENORMOUS RETOLLING COSTS THAT EUROPEAN INDUSTRY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAKE.

2. WE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT BRIEFLY WITH LOERKE ON MARCH 14. HE SAID THAT THE ISSUE HAD GONE BEYOND COMPLAINTS OF INDUSTRY. THE MAJOR EC INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAVE RAISED THE PROBLEM IN THE 113 COMMITTEE AND ASKED THE COMMISSION FOR A SITUATION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION THROUGH THE GATT OR BILATERALLY. LOERKE WILL BE MAKING A PRESENTATION

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T THE 113 COMMITTEE ON MARCH 19. HE TOLD US THAT

BOTH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENTS ARE TAKING THE ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY. WE SHALL BE SEEING HIM ON MARCH 18 FOR A FULLER PRESENTATION ON THE ISSUE.

3. REGARDING THE SHANNON MEETING LOERKE SAID THAT ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FASTENER INDUSTRY WERE PRESENT AND THEY ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM THAN THE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY, THE END USERS OF ASTENEERS ON WHOM TWO STANDARDS SYSTEMS WILL HAVE THE GREATEST ECONOMIC IMPACT. HE THEREFORE DISCOUNTED THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING.

4. DE JONGE POINTED OUT THAT APPROVAL OF METRIC J BY AN ISO SUBCOMMITTEE WAS LIMITED TO AIRCRAFT USE. HE ALSO WONDERED WHY THE ISTC COMMITTEE IS NOT CONSIDERING ISO STANDARDS BUT IS EXAMINING ONLY METRIC J AND OMFS FOR US GOVERNMENT PROCURMENT.

5. REQUEST: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE RESULTS OF THE ISTC COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 7 AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WE MIGHT PASS ON TO LOERKE.GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY, EQUIPMENT, STANDARDS, OMFS-OPTIMUM METRIC FASTNER SYSTEM, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU02301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750091-0018
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750351/aaaabtlk.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 51493, 75 MARCH 10, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STANDARDS HARMONIZATION: OPTIMUM METRIC FASTENERS SYSTEM (OM FS)
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006